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DDP

50-1558

MEMORANDUM FOR: Comptroller

SUBJECT: Report by Bureau of the Budget on "Review of Overseas Personnel Practices in Certain Far East Countries"

REFERENCE: Memorandum for D/L from A-BD/S dated 10 April 1958, with attachment, subject as above

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58-1356

1. As requested in reference memorandum, subject report has been reviewed and the following comments are submitted.

2. The report is believed constructive and the conclusions and observation generally valid. This Office concurs in the desirability of the establishment of uniform allowances for overseas civilian personnel without regard to employing agencies. The statutory authorities of the DCI will, of course, be adequate for essential Agency deviations therefrom.

3. It is the opinion of this Office that the establishment of a central "control point" [REDACTED] Administrative Office, which would supervise the uniform application of the revised quarters allowance system would be inimical to the best interests of the Agency. At present, our station chiefs can assign our employees to housing which is useful in furtherance of Agency duties, e.g., a house near station headquarters or a house located in a secluded place. It is believed unlikely that any control outside the Agency would appreciate our need for housing with characteristics of a peculiar value to this Agency and accordingly would assign Agency employees to housing without regard for their Agency status.

4. The report advocates that weight allowances for shipment of household goods should be made uniform for all agencies. A significant point to be considered is that the disparity of benefits presently afforded stems from intermingled variations of legislative authority which apply to separate agencies as well as various foreign areas (foreign vs United States territories and possessions). If enacted, the Overseas Employees Fringe Benefit Act (H.R. 3527) will provide a step toward uniform and equal benefits, but is not a comprehensive solution with regard to actual shipment. For example, the act does not lift the limitation of 5750 lbs. of household goods which may be shipped to U.S. territories and possessions for Agency employees.

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5. It is suggested that the "cost study of the government procurement and supply of automobiles used by U. S. Government personnel abroad" thoroughly explore the area of liability, claims, insurance coverage, and the economic aspects of disposal of privately-owned vehicles by the individuals and/or the storage at government expense. It is assumed that should such a study result in changes in U. S. Government policy, that the inherent authority of the DCI would be sufficient to adequately handle Agency deviations due to operational requirements.

6. This Office has previously expressed agreement with the principle that a two year tour overseas is insufficient and uneconomical at non-hardship posts.

7. Members of my staff are available to discuss these comments and suggestions should you desire further amplification.



JAMES A. GARRISON
Director of Logistics

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